

From: Geoff Beidler
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 10:45am
Subject: Dear Sir,

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell you what I think of the Microsoft antitrust settlement that has been proposed. Basically, I think it is a complete sell out of everything for which the Dept. of Justice is supposed to stand.

Individuals and small companies look to the government to protect them from large corporations. It is the duty of the government to assure that there is a fair marketplace, where no company can become so powerful that it no longer need to compete but can simply leverage its existing power to dominate emerging markets.

The settlement that DOJ has agreed to may or may not stop MS from committing more crimes in the future, but there is no reason to believe that it deprives MS of its ill gotten gain. If MS were guilty of murder, the DOJ effectively made MS promise not to kill anybody for the next five years. If they do kill someone in that time, then they aren't allowed to kill anyone for two more years.

The OJ Simpson case answered the question, "How much money does a man need to get away with murder?" This case answers the question, "How big does a company need to be to buy off a presidential administration?"

Geoff Beidler

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